

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 431  
By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to recognize Bill Emerson on the occasion of his retirement as Superintendent of Bells City Schools.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Bill Emerson is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for 29 years as Superintendent of Bells City Schools; he will be taking a much deserved retirement on June 30, 2005; and

WHEREAS, born in Bells, Tennessee, Bill Emerson graduated from Bells High School in 1953 and attended the University of Tennessee at Martin and Murray State in Kentucky, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1957; that year he returned to Bells and accepted a job with the Bells City School System as a coach and mathematics teacher; and

WHEREAS, for the next 18 years Mr. Emerson coached baseball, softball and boys and girls basketball, winning over 400 boys basketball games; in 1997, the Tennessee High School Athletic Administrators Association awarded him the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of outstanding contributions and dedication to high school athletics; and

WHEREAS, Bill Emerson served as Principal of Bells City School from 1972 to 1976, when he became Superintendent upon the retirement of Mr. Basil J. Crider; from 1980 to 1997, he was Superintendent of Crockett County Schools and contracted Superintendent of the Bells City Schools, assuming as his sole duty the position of part-time Superintendent of the Bells City Schools upon his retirement from the Crockett County system in 1997; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, the Tennessee Small Systems for Equity was organized with Mr. Emerson as its president; that organization of 77 rural school systems across the State of

Tennessee, under his leadership, was able to secure the channeling of over one billion dollars a year into the education of children with the largest portion going to small school systems; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, in 1989 and 1991, Bill Emerson was selected Superintendent of the Year in Tennessee, and in 1991-92, he was selected Man of the Year by Crockett County; and

WHEREAS, over the years Mr. Emerson has been an active and important part of his community and his profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations; and

WHEREAS, Bill Emerson exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he enjoys the love and support of his wife June, and they are the proud parents of four children and the doting grandparents of twelve grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, following his retirement, Mr. Emerson plans to read, travel and play golf, and to catch up with all the “honey do” chores awaiting him at the beautiful Emerson home in Fruitvale; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Emerson has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Mr. Bill Emerson our thanks for his devoted and outstanding service to the children of Bells and Crockett County as well as throughout Tennessee and our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.